



RockvilleReports

MAY/JUNE 2021 • VOL. 67 #5



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City Facilities to Partly Reopen This Month

The City of Rockville partially reopened some of its facilities in April, in accordance with county and state health and safety regulations governing the COVID-19 pandemic.

The eased restrictions allow park rentals, small gatherings at Glenview Mansion and social hall, rehearsals or recording sessions at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, and visits, by appointment, to Croydon Creek Nature Center.

Twinbrook, Lincoln Park and Thomas Farm community centers opened with limited hours and amenities, providing appointment-only reservations for members and city residents.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/2091/Community-Centers.

Park Rentals

Permits for the 2021 parks rental season are available for 12 Rockville parks: Calvin, Civic Center, Falls Grove, Hillcrest, Isreal, King Farm (park and farmstead), Maryvale, Monument, North Farm, Potomac Woods and Woodley Gardens.

Outdoor gatherings in Montgomery County are limited to 50 people or fewer and the ca-

capacity limit for some park shelters may be fewer than 50 people.

For more information on parks rentals, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/974/Parks.

Glenview Mansion, F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, and Social Hall

The historic Glenview Mansion and social hall is available for gatherings indoors of 25 or fewer people (or 50 people or fewer outdoors).

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is still closed to live performances, however, it can be used for rehearsals or recording sessions.

More details are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview and www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.

Croydon Creek Nature Center

Croydon Creek Nature Center is open, by appointment only to city residents, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, for no-contact, viewing-only of animals.

Interactive games and the use of exhibits are prohibited under COVID-19 restrictions.

For details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek. ✚

COVID-19: Vaccine Preregistration Open for 16+

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is preregistering all Marylanders age 16 and older for COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

To preregister, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine or call 240-777-2982. Demand is high and supplies limited. Anticipate delays when you call.

For more information about vaccine distribution, sign up for the county's email/text vaccine updates at public.govdelivery.com/accounts/mdmontgomery/signup/21366.

A portal, at covidvax.maryland.gov, allows eligible Marylanders to enter their address, ZIP code or location to view vaccination clinics available within a 50-mile radius.

Vaccination Registration Help for Seniors

Older adults who don't have access to the internet can call the state's COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center at 1-855-MDGOVAX (1-855-634-6829). The Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Department of

Aging are working together to promote access to vaccines for non-internet-connected seniors through this telephone-based support line and appointment system.

The Rockville Senior Center is also offering preregistration assistance to residents aged 65 and older, by phone at 240-314-8800.

Finding Food

Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food for a list of food resources around the county and other important information. Rockville seniors can call the senior center at 240-314-8810, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Senior center meal distributions are scheduled for Wednesdays.

Checking In

Maryland's Senior Call Check Program is a daily call program to verify seniors' wellbeing. Participants can register on Maryland's website (aging.maryland.gov/pages/senior-call-check.aspx) and choose a time for their scheduled call.

continued on pg. 2...

Memorial Day in Rockville

City government will be closed Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day.

Rockville community centers will be closed. Community centers recently began providing limited hours and amenities, by appointment, for members and city residents. Learn more in the article on this page.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open to residents and facility members only via advanced registration. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for details.

Recycling and trash collections will occur one day later than usual throughout the week. For more information on recycling and trash collection, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash or call 240-314-8568, and see the article on page 5 for ways to keep track of the holiday collection schedule.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters.

State, county and city actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 mean uncertainty for activities, programs and facility hours in the City of Rockville. Please check our online resources to see if any information contained in this edition of "Rockville Reports" has changed.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-5000.

City to Hold Its Inaugural Juneteenth Celebration

The City of Rockville will observe Juneteenth, Saturday, June 19, as a city holiday for the first time this year with a panel discussion and community service activities.

The panel discussion will focus on racial equity, social justice and economic development as a means toward achieving equity and justice. Panelists will include residents, members of Rockville's Mayor and Council, and city staff. The discussion will be prerecorded and available for viewing on June 19 on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable), on the city's YouTube channel and at www.rockvillemd.gov/Juneteenth,

where additional information about the discussion and holiday events will be posted as it becomes available.

The city will also coordinate with community groups to provide opportunities for residents to participate in community service activities.

The holiday commemorates June 19, 1865, when the Union army arrived in Texas bearing federal orders proclaiming the end of slavery.

In July 2020, the Mayor and Council approved a resolution making Rockville the first municipality in Maryland to recognize Juneteenth as a paid city holiday. ✚



Join the City of Rockville for a Virtual Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, May 31 at 9:30 a.m.

Watch on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable) and at:

- [YouTube.com/cityofrockville](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofrockville).
- City of Rockville Hometown Holidays Music Fest page on Facebook.
- www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH.

Featuring:

- ✓ Music.
- ✓ A presentation of colors.
- ✓ A keynote address by a local veteran.
- ✓ A wreath laying and an address.
- ✓ An address by Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton.

Puede encontrar esta información en su idioma. Visite RockvilleReports.com y abra el menú de «Seleccione Idioma» de Google Translate, situado en la esquina superior derecha de la página.

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이 정보를 한국어로 보실 수 있습니다. RockvilleReports.com을 방문하여 페이지 오른쪽 위 Google Translate의 "Select Language" (원하는 언어) 메뉴를 여십시오.

In This Issue...

- 2 Putting Community in Community Policing
- 3 Budget Comment Period Extended
- 4 Cicadas Set to Emerge
- 6 Bike to Work Day

MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Rockville, Maryland
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Mayor and Council to Hold Public Hearing on Annexation

The Mayor and Council will hold a virtual public hearing, Monday, May 17, on a proposal to annex a 10.3-acre plot of land at 16200 Frederick Road.

The annexation was initiated through a petition to the city by Victor, Inc., the property's owner, with a request to zone the area as mixed-use corridor district.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. The Planning Commission held a Feb. 10 public hearing on the proposal and approved the annexation plan at their March 10 meeting. See more details on both the hearing and meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Annexation is the formal process of incorporating an area outside of the city's jurisdiction into its municipal boundaries. To be eligible, the property must be within the city's maximum expansion limits, as identified in the Municipal Growth Element of the Comprehensive Plan, and adjacent to the city limits.

To testify at the Mayor and Council's May 17 public hearing, call 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the hearing or submit testimony in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or Mayor and Council, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Virtual Seminar to Emphasize Self-Care and Mental Health

Counseling Available from Rockville's School and Community Youth Services

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and Rockville will hold a virtual seminar focused on self-care and creating a mentally healthy lifestyle.

Hosted by Jennifer Lilly, a youth and family counselor with the City of Rockville, the seminar will cover topics such as exercise, healthy eating, good sleep, and recognizing and managing overwhelming feelings.

To attend, visit bit.ly/RkvMentalHealth21.

With the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, children, youth and families are struggling with anxiety, depression, hopelessness, isolation, and fear, as well as distress around virtual and hybrid learning.

Rockville's School and Community Youth Services provides counseling to help children, youth and their families who are uninsured, underinsured, or can't access counseling through Medicaid or a private health insurance provider due to high copays and/or deductibles, a lack of transportation, or unavailability of counselors (for instance, having to be placed on a wait list).

Call 240-314-8318 for more information or to make an appointment. Families must be Rockville residents.

To see more of Rockville's community assistance programs, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/369/Community-Assistance.

COVID-19: Roundup

continued from pg. 1...

If you require assistance, call or email the Rockville Senior Center, 240-314-8800 or seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov.

Getting a Ride

Seniors, age 60 and older, in need of a ride to a vaccination appointment, can call:

- Senior Connection: 301-962-0820.
- Connect-A-Ride: 301-738-3252.
- The Rockville Senior Center's Call and Ride program is providing taxi coupons to seniors in need of transportation. Seniors living in the city limits of Rockville and in need of transportation can call 240-314-8810 for assistance.

Visit mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19 updates to sign up for Rockville's email newsletter featuring city, state and county news about COVID-19. For general inquiries about city operations, call 240-314-5000. ✚



GATHERING ON GIBBS STREET ... Gibbs Street is being improved for pedestrians and diners. The city recently closed and repaved the street in order to provide improved and enhanced outdoor seating and a more welcoming environment for people to gather as COVID-19 pandemic restrictions ease and new restaurants open in Rockville Town Square. Planters have been installed on Gibbs Street near East Middle Lane, and at the opposite end of Gibbs Street at Beall Avenue, closing the street to vehicles.

(Road) Signs of Spring: Baltimore Road Construction Commences

Early spring brought early stages of construction to Baltimore Road, as the city's contractor began the project to make the east-west connection from Rockville Town Center to the city's east side more convenient, safe and accessible for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

In March, a land surveyor staked out the project, marking the locations of various design elements. Construction crews are using the lower lawn of Rockville Cemetery for staging and

storage, under an agreement with the Rockville Cemetery Association. Crews installed temporary signage along the road to alert travelers to the construction. Some signs are currently covered to avoid confusion before work begins.

Crews set inlet protection and other erosion and sediment control measures along Baltimore Road between MD 28 (First Street) and Denham Road, which were approved by the city's inspector as adequate for stopping construction sediment from entering the water-

ways. In April, crews began relocating water mains and installing storm drains along the same stretch of roadway.

Staff from the city's Traffic and Transportation Division attended meetings of the East Rockville Civic Association and Twinbrook Community Association in January to discuss the project. The contractor plans to proceed with work incrementally, generally moving block by block, west to east, as it completes improvements. These include an 8-foot-wide shared-use path that connects

the Rock Creek and Carl Henn Millennium trails, sidewalk infill, pedestrian safety spot improvements, curb and gutter installation, storm drain infrastructure installation, water and sewer relocations, stream restoration, landscaping, and stormwater management.

Roadway resurfacing will be one of the final steps of the project, which is expected to be completed in spring 2022, if work proceeds as planned.

For more info, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/baltimore-roadproject. ✚

New Advisory Board and Training Put the Community in Community Policing

The Rockville City Police Department's commitment to community policing continues this spring with work by the city's newly constituted Community Policing Advisory Board and a training focused on helping community members and police work together.

The Community Policing Advisory Board will meet virtually on Thursday, May 6 to review the department's budget structure and to discuss violence against the Asian American Pacific Islander community. Rockville's Mayor and Council and Rockville City Police Department Chief Victor V. Brito issued state-

ments in March to show solidarity with the community following recent attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Visit RockvilleReports.com/rockville-mayor-and-council-stand-with-asian-american-pacific-islanders for more information.

In April, the board, which has met twice since being created by the Mayor and Council in late 2020, received a presentation about the training police officers receive before and after they are hired by the RCPD.

The board is comprised of nine members who live in Rockville, including a youth

continued on pg. 6...

How do *you* imagine RedGate Park's future?

Help envision — and design — RedGate's future.

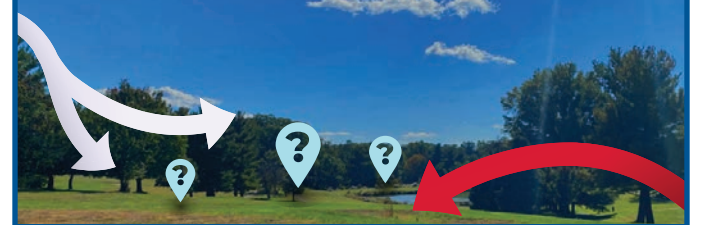


Visit EngageRockville.com, register, and join the conversation.

Registration not only allows you to continue the discussion and send us your ideas, it means you'll receive updates about this legacy city project.

请协助我们策划RedGate Park的未来。请访问 engagerockville.com/redgate-park 以了解有关策划过程的更新内容。

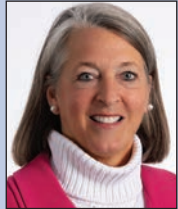
Ayude a planear el futuro del Parque RedGate. Por favor revise engagerockville.com/redgate-park para las actualizaciones en el proceso de planeación.



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? Sit up and pay attention — May is Correct Your Posture Month! May also recognizes Asian Pacific American heritage, older Americans, building safety, eggs, hamburgers and salad, as well as awareness for Lyme disease, cystic fibrosis, strokes and mental health. June is for African American music appreciation, roses, turkeys, DJs, accordions and — importantly — LGBTQ+ Month.

Mayor & Council

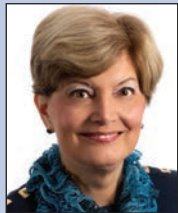
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VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE. Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Meetings Schedule: Meetings are held Mondays, at 7 p.m. Meetings in May will be held May 3, 10 and 24, with a work session May 17; and on June 7 and 14, with a work session on June 21. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Drop-in sessions will be held with Mayor Newton, by telephone, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with Councilmember Pierzchala on May 10, and Councilmember Ashton on June 14. To participate, sign up by 10 a.m. the day of the drop-in at www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227. If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov by 10 a.m. on the day of.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11, and available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

Mayor and Council to Continue Work on Water and Sewer Rate Structure

Water and sewer rates will remain the same through calendar year 2021 and the Mayor and Council will continue to evaluate the rate structure after hearing from property owners during the city's Fiscal Year 2022 budget deliberations.

Last year, the city hired Stantec, a nationally renowned firm in the utility industry, to study the city's rate structure and provide recommendations for setting rates for fiscal years 2022-2024. The current rate structure treats all customers under a one-size-fits-all approach that bills customers based on meter size and water usage. The study evaluated the cost of water and sewer service by three property classifications: single-family, multifamily and nonresidential.

In commissioning the study, the Mayor and Council were looking for a more equitable way to charge customers, due to the impact the meter-size approach has on multifamily properties. The

study was presented to the Mayor and Council on Jan. 25 and can be found with the staff report from that meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. Rate structures consistent with the study's recommendations were included in the proposed budget for FY 2022, which begins July 1.

Since the proposed budget presentation, several property owners have submitted testimony with questions about how staff determined the rate structure for multifamily properties. In response, the Mayor and Council decided to leave the current rate system in place through the end of 2021. Between now and then, the Mayor and Council will work with Stantec to further analyze occupancy and use factors for multifamily properties. In addition, staff will examine how federal American Rescue Plan funds can be used to provide rate relief to water and sewer customers in coming years. ✚

Mayor and Council to Hold Public Hearing on Accessory Structures and Accessory Dwelling Units

The Mayor and Council will hold a virtual public hearing, during their Monday, May 10 meeting, on potential changes to regulations that govern residential accessory buildings in single-family neighborhoods.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. To testify, call 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the hearing or by submitting testimony in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or City Clerk/Director of Council Operations, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

The amendments to the city's zoning code under discussion would revise the regulations for accessory buildings and also allow the placement of accessory dwellings within accessory buildings. Under the proposal, an accessory apartment within

the main house would also be allowed.

An accessory building is a detached structure in the rear yard, such as a shed or garage.

An accessory apartment is a small living unit, separate from but enclosed within the main house.

An accessory dwelling unit is a second, smaller dwelling on the same grounds as the main, single-family house but in an accessory building. Examples of these include an apartment over a garage or a smaller, separate structure (on a foundation) in the backyard.

For more details about the proposed revisions, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/2345, or contact Jim Wasilak, zoning and development manager, at 240-314-8211 or jwasilak@rockvillemd.gov. ✚



IMPORTANT NUMBERS: Main: 240-314-5000

Police Non-emergency: 240-314-8900

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

Mayor and Council to Vote on FY22 Budget on May 10

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to vote Monday, May 10 on adoption of a city budget that addresses financial pressures on the Rockville community due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The community can offer ideas and feedback about the proposed budget through 5 p.m. Monday, May 3 after the Mayor and Council extended the public comment period. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget to review the proposed budget and offer ideas using the budget survey available

continued on pg. 8...

Mayor and Council Urge Comptroller to Oppose I-495/I-270 Managed Lanes Project

Rockville's Mayor and Council are calling on state Comptroller Peter Franchot to vote against the state project to add toll lanes to interstates 270 and 495 between the American Legion Bridge and Frederick.

In a letter, the Mayor and Council urged Franchot to join the Montgomery County Council in opposing the public-private partnership, or "P3," project, calling the traffic model used to evaluate

continued on pg. 8...

State Legislative Wins: Aid for Pandemic Relief, Schools and Climate Change

State aid for renovations to Lincoln Park Community Center as well as education, and measures to combat climate change, were among the wins for Rockville during the Maryland General Assembly session that concluded April 12.

Lawmakers approved a \$250,000 bond bill to renovate Lincoln Park Community Center, reconfiguring its former police substation offices, hallways and

continued on pg. 6...

Rockville Station Study Seeks Public Input

The City of Rockville will hold two community visioning meetings, at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 4 and 10 a.m. Saturday, May 15, as part of a new study of the Rockville Metro Station, a project sponsored by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, in coordination with Montgomery County.

Members of the public are invited to attend either meeting to help establish guiding principles and priorities for the project, which is expected to conclude in

continued on pg. 6...

Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the Mayor and Council, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Find ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

While some meetings are canceled, other boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually. See times and dates, and ways to participate on city's online calendar: www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx.

- **May 12 and 26; June 9 and 23 Planning Commission 7 p.m.** (Meetings will be held by teleconference. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details closer to the meeting dates.)

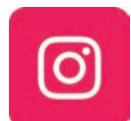
Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Environment Commission (1)
- Ethics Commission (1)
- Human Rights Comm. (4)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (3)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs (1)
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board (2)
- Retirement Board (1)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (1)
- Traffic and Transportation Commission (1)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.

Connect with us on Social Media.



► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca
Visit www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd
For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse.

Survey Launched to Investigate Scope of Social Justice, Racism, Bias and Wellness in Rockville

The Human Rights and Human Services Advisory commissions of the City of Rockville have launched a communitywide survey to assess the state of social justice, racism, bias and wellness in the city.

The survey is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Vietnamese and Korean. More information and a link to the survey are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights. The survey can be taken anonymously and will remain open for at least 60 days.

Paper surveys are available on request by calling the Department of Housing and Community Development at 240-314-8300.

Rockville Honors Environmental Excellence Award Winners

The Mayor and Council honored community members and two local restaurants on April 26 with Environmental Excellence Awards recognizing contributions to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Eric Walsh was honored for Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship for his years of picking up litter while walking (plogging). Walking up to two hours and up to 8 miles each day, he collects an average of 50 pounds of refuse daily, much of which he reuses or recycles.

Stephen Chesterton was honored for Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship for seven years of service on the Rockville Environment Commission's Watersheds Committee and for his volunteer work promoting watershed stewardship. Chesterton spearheaded the Rockville Brewshed program, a fun partnership that emphasizes the importance of protecting water quality.

The **Twinbrook Park Forest Restoration Project** was honored for Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices. In 2019, certified Weed Warriors and volunteers, led by Anne Goodman, Sarah Salazar and Chuck Woolery, in coordination with city staff, spent 118 hours removing hundreds of non-native invasive plants throughout nearly two acres of parkland in the Twinbrook neighborhood. In 2020, volunteers partnered with Pope Farm Nursery and the city to plant 649 locally grown native plants to revegetate the areas.

Restaurants **St. Veg** and **Yuan Fu Vegetarian** were honored for Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices for being the only restaurants in Rockville that offer completely plant-based, low-environmental-impact menus. Plant-based foods produce less greenhouse gas emissions, use less water and land, and produce less waste compared to animal-based foods.

Find more information, and video of the awards presentation, with the April 26 Mayor and Council meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.



Looking for Funds to Help with Energy Efficiency?

Homeowners in Rockville could be eligible for up to \$10,000.

City residents could get grants for:

- Energy-efficient light bulbs and showerheads.
- Attic insulation.
- Energy Star appliances.
- HVAC replacement.
- Other home improvements.

For more info, contact Niambi Powell at npowell@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8319.



17-Year Cicadas Set to Emerge

After 17 years in the ground, Brood X cicadas will once again emerge in their billions this spring.

Although indisputably creepy, with bulging red eyes and distinctive drone, the insects are harmless to humans and pets. And the infestation won't last long — about six to eight weeks, during which they will

breed and lay eggs.

Brood X, last seen in 2004, is one of 15 broods of so-called "periodical cicadas" that emerge regularly throughout the eastern U.S.

For more information, visit the cicada information webpage of the University of Maryland Extension at extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/cicada. ❖

Mayor and Council to Discuss Draft Comprehensive Plan

The Mayor and Council will hold virtual meetings in May and June to discuss the City of Rockville's proposed comprehensive plan update.

Rockville's comprehensive plan sets a vision and goals for the future of the city, with practical policies and actions to achieve those goals.

The comprehensive plan draft is organized in two sections.

The first contains 10 broad, citywide "Elements," including topics such as land use, transportation, recreation and parks, environment, economic development, housing and municipal growth.

The second section focuses on issues and opportunities specific to 17 neighborhood-scale planning areas.

A Mayor and Council work session held on April 19 covered the proposed plan's Elements and included a conversation with the Rockville

Planning Commission.

Another work session, scheduled for May 3, will continue that discussion.

A second public hearing on the comprehensive plan draft will be held by the Mayor and Council on Monday, June 14.

The draft comprehensive plan is based on feedback gathered throughout the Rockville 2040 process, which included numerous listening sessions, city-wide forums, open houses and other meetings, as well as analysis and discussion by the Planning Commission and city staff.

If adopted by the Mayor and Council, as anticipated in July, it will replace the city's previous 2002 comprehensive plan and many of its subsequent amendments.

For more information, and to review the draft plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040 or contact principal planner Clark Larson at clarson@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8225. ❖

Solar Co-op: Affordable Options for Rooftop Panels or Vehicle Chargers

If you are interested in rooftop solar, or are looking to install an electric vehicle charger, then this is the opportunity for you.

Registration is now open for the Capital Area Solar Co-op. Rockville is joining Arlington, Frederick and Montgomery counties, and Bowie, Falls Church, Frederick, Gaithersburg, Poolesville, Takoma Park and Washington D.C. to promote residential solar installations.

Rockville will host free virtual information sessions on Thursday, May 13 and Thursday, July 15. Other sessions are available. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solar homes to register for the information sessions and learn more about joining the co-op, which is free and does not commit you to purchase solar panels or EV chargers. Information sessions will discuss the benefits of solar for homes and small businesses, including technology, economics, and financing. Attendees will learn about the process, including whether their home is suitable for solar.



By working with a local nonprofit and community partners, co-op members receive guidance throughout the process and leverage group buying power to get a discount on installations. Each member signs an individual contract with the chosen installer, but all participants get the group discount. Co-op members will have an opportunity to take advantage of federal tax credits before they phase out. The co-op can include leasing or other financing options.

Stay up to date on the co-op and other news about going green by signing up for the city's "Environment and Sustainability News" quarterly email newsletter. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters and select "Environment and Sustainability." ❖

SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWS!
www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters



JUNE IS NATIONAL POLLINATOR MONTH! The city is celebrating by giving away free native wildflower seeds to Rockville residents. To get your seed packet, fill out the form at www.rockvillemd.gov/environment. Learn more about how you can help pollinators and other wildlife at www.rockvillemd.gov/wildlifehabitat.



DON'T BLAME IT ON THE RAIN, MAKE IT DRAIN... If your yard dries out within a day or two after a rainstorm, that is considered normal. Wetness becomes a problem when puddles or soggy areas persist for several days after storms or are always present. For small wet areas, an environmentally friendly option is to replant the area with water-loving, native plant species. To eliminate the soggy depression, fill or regrade the depression. Find more ways to capture rainfall and control stormwater in "Slow It. Spread It. Sink It!" at www.rockvillemd.gov/drainageguide.

Tracking Trash and Remembering Recycling

With the arrival of summer and a growing customer base, Rockville will adjust recycling and trash collection routes in May. Collection days won't change, but the time the trucks collect on your street may fluctuate. Be sure not to miss the truck by placing carts curbside the night before or by 6 a.m. on your collection day.

More time at home can mean more trash and recyclables. But there's no need for an extra trash cart. If you have more bags of trash than usual, place them next to your cart and city crews will collect them. If you have extra recyclables, don't put them in plastic bags, which could get tangled in recycling equipment. Instead, place them in any 32-gallon can with handles and crews will pick them up.

Rockville offers multiple ways to keep track of your trash and recycling collection day, from online tools to printable calendars.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash to learn

about Rockville's recycling and trash collection, including what can and can't be recycled, and whether the City of Rockville provides recycling, trash and yard waste to your neighborhood.

Enter your address under "Find Your Collection Day." The online tool will tell you whether the City of Rockville serves your address. If it does, you'll be able to add reminders and notifications about collection days and holiday changes to the calendar on your smartphone or personal computer.

Prefer a low-tech or no-tech way to keep track of collection days? Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/301/Holiday-Schedules for a list of holidays when the city's collection schedule changes, and printable calendars showing schedules for each collection day.

For more information, call 240-314-8568, or email recyclingrefuse@rockvillemd.gov. ❖



Health and Wellness, Coming Up at the Senior Center

Stay home and stay well with free online seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in May and June.

Register with the course number online at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration, call 240-314-8800 or email seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov for more information.

Sessions are free, and will be held from 1-2 p.m., except where noted.

Herbs at a Glance

Dr. Mehrdad Michael Massumi, of Massumi Associates, Pain Management and Rehabilitation, will discuss the benefits of herbs for managing chronic illness — musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, psychological, hormonal and other chronic maladies. Course #17778; Tuesday, May 4.

Stroke, From A-Z

May is Stroke Awareness Month. Explore the three types of strokes and learn about risk factors, symptoms and treatments. Presented by Adventist HealthCare. Course #17822; Tuesday, May 11.

EFT Tapping for Good Health

If you experience stress-related issues like anxiety, worry or anger, or physical aches and pains, learn about Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT "Tapping"), a scientific and clinically proven, self-administered technique. Presented by Bev Nerenberg, of Wellness at Your Fingertips. Course #18333; Thursday, May 13, 1-2:30 p.m.

Smart Driver TEK Workshop

AARP wants you to learn about new vehicle technologies like forward collision warning, blind spot warning and drowsy driver alerts, which can keep you on the road more safely and longer. Presented by Ken Ow, an AARP driving instruc-

tor. Course #17922; Wednesday, May 19, 1-2:30 p.m.

Finding a Happy Balance

In most cases, falls can be prevented. Suburban Hospital division director of orthopedics, neurosurgery and rehab Matt Tovornick will share practical and useful tips to prevent falls. Course #18469; Thursday, May 27.

Headache and Migraines

Explore the difference between headaches and migraines and discuss possible causes and treatments. Presented by Adventist HealthCare. Course #17823; Tuesday, June 1.

Know Your Transportation Options

The Connect-A-Ride Transportation Resource Center is a free service that helps seniors living in Montgomery County find the transportation they need. A mobility specialist from Connect-A-Ride will provide an overview of transportation options available in Montgomery County. Learn about public and private programs, including for those who need wheelchair-accessible transport, and more. Presented by Harriet Block of the Jewish Council on Aging. Have transportation questions? Call Connect-A-Ride at 301-738-3252, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Course #18467; Tuesday, June 8.

Boosting Your Immunity Through Food

Proper nutrition plays a huge role in keeping us healthy, but what foods help to support our immune systems? Join Suburban Hospital dietician Michelle F. Young to learn proper care for yourself, and how to strengthen your immune system while maintaining portion control. Course #18470; Thursday, June 24. ❖

Delayed a Year Due to COVID, Senior Center Time Capsule to be Unearthed in May

No one in 1995 could have predicted that when a time capsule was buried at the Rockville Senior Center, the appointed time for unearthing would be delayed a year due to a global pandemic in 2020.

Now, 26 years on, that capsule will be unearthed and its contents revealed via a virtual Zoom event, 5-6 p.m. Thursday, May 13.

"Within the capsule the citizens of Rockville, Maryland, have placed messages and memorabilia for future generations to view," a plaque adorning a stone marking the capsule's location reads today.

Staff at the Senior Center need to know which items to return to whom. Envelopes handed out at the time were used to donate items. Receipts issued at the time were to be redeemed for the items when the capsule was dug up.

If you have a receipt ticket, or believe a loved one may have put something in the capsule for you to retrieve, contact the Rockville Senior Center at seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8800.

To register for the free event, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration, and use course #18872.

Police Offer Tips to Protect Pedestrians from Crime: Be Aware While Walking

Walking offers wonderful exercise and a way to enjoy the warmer weather while getting out in the community and social distancing. But, if you're not aware of your surroundings, it can also present an opportunity for criminals. The Rockville City Police Department encourages community members to remember these tips to protect yourself while walking around town and in your neighborhood:

- Avoid walking alone at night. Try to have a companion accompany you in high-risk areas, even during the daytime.
- Always plan your route and stay alert to your surroundings. Walk confidently.
- Avoid carrying weapons — they may be used against you.
- Don't carry large, bulky shoulder bags. Carry only what you need. Better yet, use or sew a small pocket inside your jacket or coat. If you don't have a purse, no one will try to snatch it.
- If you do carry a purse, don't dangle it away from your body. Purse snatchings and street robberies account for 12% of all crimes against older adults.
- Walk in well-lit areas away from buildings and doorways.
- Have your key ready when approaching your front door.
- If you are attacked on the street, make as much noise as possible by calling for help or blowing a whistle. Do not pursue your attacker. Call 911 and report the crime as soon as possible.

Find more crime and safety tips with the Rockville City Police Department's weekly crime reports at www.rockvillemd.gov/271/Weekly-Crime-Reports.

Swim Laps Outdoors at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center has opened its fitness pool for the season for lap swimming and water walking, on a reservation-only basis, for Rockville residents and swim center members.

The outdoor fitness pool has been set up for short course laps (19 lanes, each 25 meters) to accommodate as many swimmers as possible given COVID-19-related capacity restrictions. Lane allocations change throughout the day based on scheduled programming, so review the updated schedule at the link below for the most up-to-date details.

For more information, and to see prices and schedules, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

Peerless Presents: Women — Real and Fictional — Who Lived in Frieda's Cottage, and a Closer Look at the C&O Canal

May is Preservation Month and Peerless Rockville's online presentations are taking a closer look at Rockville's National Historic Landmark, the remarkable woman who lived there and the novel she inspired. June finds the Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series exploring the C&O Canal.

Restoring Frieda's Cottage: Preserving a Landmark Building, at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6, will explore

the home and office for more than 20 years of Dr. Frieda Fromm-Reichmann, a pioneering psychiatrist in the treatment of schizophrenia at Rockville's Chestnut Lodge sanitarium. The presentation will examine how Peerless preserved the home's integrity while promoting Fromm-Reichmann's place in history, culminating in the cottage's designation as Rockville's first National Historic Landmark.

Unreal Estate: A Novelist

Moves Into Frieda Fromm-Reichmann's Cottage, at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 2, presents author Ellen Prentiss Campbell and her new novel "Frieda's Song," inspired by the life and work Fromm-Reichmann. In the novel, Eliza, a struggling psychotherapist and single mother, lives in the cottage 52 years after Frieda's death and finds surprising ways Frieda still inhabits the cottage.

The Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker

Series presents *History and Preservation at the C&O Canal*, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 10. Robin Zanotti, president of the C&O Canal Trust, will present a brief history of the canal, which is celebrating its 50th year as part of the National Park Service system, and the stories its lockhouses tell about westward expansion.

Programs will be via Zoom with links provided upon registration at peerlessrockville.org. ❖



State Legislative Wins

continued from pg. 3...

other spaces to address the growing demand for expanded programming, including after-school programs and community gatherings. The General Assembly also waived a requirement for the city to match the funds.

The session was marked by efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Maryland Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act authorized \$687 million of state aid and \$585 million of targeted tax relief across the current and next fiscal year, to support recovery.

The state budget for Fiscal Year 2022, which begins July 1, includes more than \$7.5 billion in aid to local school systems, a priority for Rockville that is an increase of 3.5% over the current fiscal year. Montgomery County will also receive \$42.89 million for school construction.

The state will partner with the Maryland Child Care Resource Network to provide grants to in-home child care providers, thereby increasing access to affordable child care, another Mayor and Council priority.

The legislature approved two climate change policy initiatives supported by the city. One authorizes, beginning in 2024, the formation of the Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program. The program would allow Montgomery County and its municipalities to pool their purchasing power to offer consumers lower-cost renewable energy that produces less greenhouse gas emissions. The other extends a state rebate program for the purchase of electric vehicles.

The General Assembly also repealed "Maryland, My Maryland" as the state song, an action the Mayor and Council urged in a letter to state officials and with written testimony during the session.

Legislation that would have addressed some of the city's concerns with the I-495 and I-270 managed lanes project, and another measure tied to future public-private partnerships – both supported by the city – failed. Learn more about the city's effort to oppose the managed lanes project in the article on page 3.

Plans are in the works for the state District 17 delegation to present a report on the session to the Mayor and Council. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for details as they become available. For more information, contact Linda Moran at lmoran@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8115. ✚

Rockville Station Study

continued from pg. 3...

early 2022.

The station, which opened in 1984, is a critical part of the city's transportation network, but showing its age. The study's goals are to develop recommendations for improvements to the station's aging infrastructure and connections with Rockville's downtown and neighborhoods to the east, and potential development opportunities at the site and strategies to increase bus and train ridership.

Details on how to take part in the visioning meetings will be available on the project's website at www.rockvillemd.gov/2356/Rockville-Station-Study.

A public meeting later in the process will allow the public to give feedback on the draft concept plans that will be developed.

For more information on the study, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/2356/Rockville-Station-Study, or contact principal planner Clark Larson at clarson@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8225. ✚

Bike to Work Day Returns in May

Trade your gas pedal for bicycle pedals on Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 21.

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and Washington Area Bicyclist Association will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Bike To Work Day with a free T-shirt for the first 15,000 people in the Washington metropolitan region to register.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, this year's celebration will feature nontraditional pit stops where bike commuters can stop by on their way to

work. Telecommuters are encouraged to bike a mock commute to a pit stop and pick up a T-shirt.

Registration is now open for all 15 Montgomery County pit stops. Visit www.biketoworkmetrodc.org for registration, an interactive map of pit stop locations and more information.

Rockville's YouTube channel has a series of safety tips for bicyclists. Visit www.youtube.com/cityofrockville and search for "bike safety." Learn more about bicycling in Rockville at www.rockville.md.gov/bicycling and www.rockvillemd.gov/rbac. ✚



Rockville police Cpl. Jon Lally is one of six veteran officers who patrol the city by bicycle.

Rockville Police Go on Patrol with Pedal Power

Rockville likes bikes. And so does the Rockville City Police Department.

The city is a Bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community as certified by the League of American Bicyclists, which recognizes the city's commitment to bicycling as a sustainable, healthy and equitable mode of transportation and recreation.

In its commitment to community policing, the RCPD joins community members on bicycles, especially during the summer months, when bicycle-certified officers can be seen patrolling Rockville Town Center, city parks and trails and special events by bike.

Bicycles provide great exercise for the officers and an alternative form of community policing that gives officers visibility in the community as they patrol and respond to calls for assistance.

Rockville's bicycle-certified officers are: Cpl. Jon Lally, Cpl. Phil Lew, Cpl. Jamal Lewis, Cpl. Heath Marshall, Cpl. Karl Plitt and Cpl. Chris Sadelson. Additional RCPD officers will be attending a three-day training in the coming weeks to become bicycle certified.

For more about the RCPD, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/police.

For more about bicycling in Rockville, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling. ✚

Community Policing Advisory Board

continued from pg. 2...

member. It provides recommendations to the Mayor and Council on how to support RCPD programs, training and professional development, and crime and safety initiatives. It also meets with police to discuss issues as they arise, in the interest of making improvements and finding solutions.

For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/2347/Community-Policing-Advisory-Board.

Community members are encouraged to participate in the police department's latest Fair and Impartial Policing

training. The training, first held in Rockville in 2019, gives officers and community members tools to better communicate and work together to make the community safer and more resilient.

The training, open to Rockville residents only, will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Social Hall, 603 Edmonston Drive. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, seating will be limited. Attendees will be required to wear face coverings.

Registration is now open at bit.ly/FIPJune2021.

To learn more about the RCPD, visit www.rockville.md.gov/police. ✚

Vision Zero is a strategy for a safer community.

Sets a goal of reducing, and eventually eliminating all traffic and pedestrian deaths or serious injuries.	Recognizes that people make mistakes and crashes will occur, but also that no one should lose their life or suffer life-altering injuries because of such mistakes.	Acknowledges that many factors contribute to safe mobility and requires an approach to examine the whole system.	Recognizes that while transportation safety benefits everyone, some members of the community are more at risk for experiencing a serious crash.	Uses data to target the cause of crashes before they occur, in order to lessen the severity of injuries.

WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/VISIONZERO

VISION ZERO
ROCKVILLE

WHAT IS VISION ZERO?

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic and pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, fair mobility for all.

SHARE YOUR VISION. Vision Zero is the city's strategy to eliminate traffic and pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy and fair mobility for all. Help us better understand your transportation, pedestrian and bicycle safety experience in Rockville by completing a survey at www.rockvillemd.gov/visionzero. Older residents who would like assistance completing the survey can call the Rockville Senior Center at 240-314-8816. Student Service Learning hours are available for students who complete the survey. For more information, contact Alyssa Roff at aroff@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8527.



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel, (youtube.com/cityofrockville): Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Monique Ashton congratulate Rockville students who won prizes in the 2021 C-SPAN StudentCam competition. See their winning videos! Rockville celebrates International Night. Watch the performances and learn more about our city's many cultures. And the Mayor and Council make a statement in solidarity with the city's Asian American Pacific Islander community.

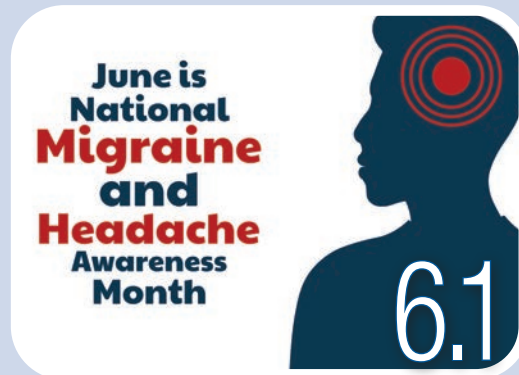
May/June CALENDAR

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
- GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
- FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
- LP** Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

- CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
- SR** Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
- SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
- TF** Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
- TC** Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.

- V** Virtual Program/Offering
- F** Facebook Live Event



MAY: 1 FAMILY BIRD HIKE Grab your binoculars, or borrow some from us, and enjoy a hike to identify some of the birds that live around the nature center. All participants, including adults, must register. Ages 5 and older. Wear a mask. Course #18612. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 9:30-10:30 a.m. **CC**

2 INVASIVE SPECIES PULL Join an invasive species pull on the grounds of the Hayes Forest preserve. Gloves and bags provided as well as guidance on plants to pull. Space is limited and online registration for each volunteer is required. Children younger than 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Course #19054. Free. 1:30-4:30 p.m. **CC**

3,10,17,24 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING. 7 p.m.

4 HERBS AT A GLANCE: COMMON NAMES, BENEFITS, CAUTIONS AND RESOURCES **V** Discussion of the proven benefits of herbs in the management of chronic illness. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

4,18 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — EMPATHY **V** Explore empathy from the points of view of various authors with opportunities for participants to share their own experiences. Meets first and third Tuesday of the month. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 2:30-4 p.m. **SR**

4,11,18,25 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — TIME MACHINE TUNES **V** Experience a blast from the past with high school musicians singing popular tunes from past decades. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 3:30-4 p.m. **SR**

5 MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION **V** Patricia Dorn, outreach staffer, provides an overview the Maryland Insurance Administration and an introduction to resources on the web. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 10:30-11:30 a.m. **SR**

6,20 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — WOMEN LIVING ALONE **V** A support group where members support each other by listening, expressing concern and offering tips, suggestions and advice. Call 240-314-8800 to register. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

7,14,21,28 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — MANAGING STRESS DURING THE PANDEMIC **V** An ongoing support and educational group to help cope with isolation, anxiety, depression, loss, etc., as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn coping skills from facilitator and each other. Join virtually or by phone. Meets every Friday. Free. 11-noon **SR**

8 SPRING BIRD WALK AT CROYDON CREEK NATURE CENTER A physically distant morning walk for beginning birders. Learn how to use binoculars, how to identify common local species, how to use bird guides and apps, and much more. Binoculars provided or bring your own. Ages 16 and older. Wear a mask. Course #18462. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 7:30-9 a.m. **CC**

8 CRITTER TALES AT CROYDON CREEK **F** A Facebook Live fall-themed story, and meet one of Croydon Creek's critters. Free. 10-10:15 a.m. www.facebook.com/croydoncreek.

11 STROKE, FROM A-Z **V** Explore the three types of strokes. Learn about risk factors, symptoms and treatments. Presented by Adventist HealthCare. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

11,25 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM: BRAIN GAMES **V** Work your brain and compete with peers in various games and puzzles. Meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 2:30-4 p.m. **SR**

12 MANNA SMART SPENDING **V** Balancing eating healthy and saving money can be a challenge. Discuss how to navigate the grocery store and make cents out of purchasing healthy foods. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 10:30-noon. **SR**

12,26 OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB: ACORNS Spend an hour outdoors investigating and learning about nature while roaming the forest preserve with two experienced naturalists. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. Meets every other week for four sessions. Ages 6-8. Course #18453. Cost \$40 R/\$50 NR for four sessions. 3:30-4:30 p.m. **CC**

13 EFT TAPPING FOR GOOD HEALTH **V** Learn about Emotional Freedom Techniques, a scientifically and clinically proven self-administered technique based on modern psychology and 5,000-year-old acupuncture, but without needles. Presented by Bev Nerenberg, Wellness at Your Fingertips. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

13,27 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — MEN LIVING ALONE **V** Join other men and share the challenges and joys of living by yourself. Meets second and fourth Thursday of each month. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

13 TIME CAPSULE CELEBRATION **V** Celebrate via Zoom the opening of the Rockville Senior Center time capsule, buried in 1995. Free. 5-6 p.m.

13 SOLAR AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER CO-OP ONLINE INFO SESSION **V** See article on page 4.

15,22,29 ROCKVILLE FARMERS MARKET Jury parking lot at East Jefferson (MD 28) and Monroe streets. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. See ad on page 8.

15,29 LITTLE EXPLORERS Go on hiking adventures with naturalists, play games and discover the fun that can be had outdoors. Spaces are limited. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Course #18460 (#18461 for May 29). \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

18 SPRING BIRD WALK AT REDGATE PARK A physically distant morning walk for beginning birders. Learn how to use binoculars, how to identify common local species, how to use bird guides and apps, and much more. Binoculars provided or bring your own. Ages 16 and older. Wear a mask. Course #18463. \$5 R/\$6 NR. 7:30-9 a.m. **CC**

19 SMART DRIVER TEK WORKSHOP — VIRTUAL OR PHONE **V** Learn about new vehicle technologies. Presented by Ken Ow, AARP driving instructor and workshop leader. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

20 STANDING GUARD: PROTECT WHAT YOU'VE WORKED FOR **V** Strategies designed to help you guard your most valuable assets and protect your pre- and post-retirement income. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 10:30-noon **SR**

21 BIKE TO WORK DAY. See the article on page 6.

27 FINDING A HAPPY BALANCE **V** Practical changes that can be made at home and while on the move to prevent falls. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

31 VIRTUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY. 9:30 a.m. See ad on page 1. **V**

JUNE: 1 HEADACHES AND MIGRAINES **V** The difference between headaches and migraines, possible causes, and treatments. Presented by Adventist HealthCare. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

1,15 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — EMPATHY **V** Explore empathy from the points of view of various authors with opportunities for participants to share their own experiences. Meets first and third Tuesday of the month. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 2:30-4 p.m. **SR**

1 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — TIME MACHINE TUNES **V** Experience a blast from the past with high school musicians singing popular tunes from past decades. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 3:30-4 p.m. **SR**

3 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — WOMEN LIVING ALONE **V** A support group where members support each other by listening, expressing concern and offering tips, suggestions and advice. Call 240-314-8800 to register. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

4,11,18,25 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — MANAGING STRESS DURING THE PANDEMIC **V** An ongoing support and educational group to help cope with isolation, anxiety, depression, loss, etc., due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn coping skills from facilitator and each other. Join virtually or by phone. Meets every Friday. Free. 11-noon **SR**

5,12,19,26 ROCKVILLE FARMERS MARKET Jury parking lot at East Jefferson (MD 28) and Monroe streets. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. See ad on page 8.

7,14,21 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING. 7 p.m.

8 KNOW YOUR TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS **V** An overview of transportation options available in Montgomery County. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

8,22 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — BRAIN GAMES **V** Work your brain and compete with peers in various games and puzzles. Meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 2:30-4 p.m. **SR**

10,24 POSITIVE AGING PROGRAM — MEN LIVING ALONE **V** A support group where members support each other by listening, expressing concern and offering tips, suggestions and advice. Call 240-314-8800 to register. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

12 FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING TRAINING. See article on page 6.

16 HEALTHY: FACT OR FICTION **V** A walkthrough of the most asked food and health questions designed to dispel eating myths and solidify knowledge around key nutrition principles. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 10:30-noon **SR**

19 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION See article on page 1.

24 BOOSTING YOUR IMMUNITY THROUGH FOOD **V** Proper nutrition plays a huge role in keeping us healthy, but what foods help to support our immune system? Learn how to properly take care of yourself and strengthen your immune system, while maintaining proper portion control. Join virtually or by phone. Free. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

26 PRIDE CELEBRATION See ad on page 8.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

FY22 Budget Vote

continued from pg. 3...

in English and Spanish, or submit testimony in writing to mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov or Mayor and Council, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

The Mayor and Council discussed changes to the proposed budget during work sessions on March 22 and April 19, including increased revenues from income tax, building rental and tax duplication.

The proposal includes a new recreation program coordinator; a social media specialist; consultants on new tax credit programs and performance measurement; an assistant to the city manager for equity, inclusion and diversity; and a mental health specialist for the police department. The Mayor and Council directed additional support to Rockville Economic Development, Inc., resident companies at the city's F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, and caregiver agencies. They also directed funding of regular employee merit and step pay increases and a \$15 per hour minimum wage for temporary employees.

The city's current real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation would remain the same. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax. Rockville has not increased its property tax rate in over 25 years.

City Manager Rob DiSpirito on Feb. 22 presented a proposed operating budget of \$139.7 million, a decrease of less than 1% from the Fiscal Year 2021 adopted budget. The budget for Fiscal Year 2022, which begins July 1, is expected to benefit from a sizeable amount of federal aid through the American Rescue Plan, which provides relief funds to aid state and local governments to offset budgetary, economic, and financial impacts of the pandemic.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter for Mayor and Council agendas and videos of past meetings. ❖

I-495/I-270 Project

continued from pg. 3...

it "outdated" and raising social equity concerns about environmental impacts and toll costs.

The Mayor and Council are asking Franchot to reconsider the state Board of Public Works' preliminary approval of the project and vote no when approval for the project's first phase comes before the board, which comprises Franchot, Gov. Larry Hogan and state Treasurer Nancy Kopp. A board vote has not yet been scheduled.

Legislation addressing the project failed to win passage during this year's Maryland General Assembly session. An amended bill, supported by the city, would have prohibited the Maryland Department of Transportation from submitting a P3 agreement for review by the Board of Public Works unless the project's final Environmental Impact Statement complied with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The city continues to press the state to build the West End Park Noise Barrier Project, and for noise barriers in other impacted neighborhoods. The managed lane project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement included noise barriers at Woodley Gardens Shopping Center. The state is in the process of evaluating whether to include additional noise barriers.

To read the letter and learn more about the Mayor and Council's efforts regarding the project, visit RockvilleReports.com and search "I-270." ❖



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.


Rockville City Academy Offers a Fresh Perspective on Rockville's Government

The Rockville City Academy returns in May, offering community members an opportunity to better understand how the City of Rockville operates with a closer look at city departments and services.

This year's academy will be virtual with four sessions connecting participants with some of the city staff who help keep Rockville running. Sessions

will be held 7:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 18-27, and will allow participation from the comfort and safety of home.

Registration is open through Monday, May 10 at www.rockvillemd.gov/academy. For more information, contact Hjarman Cordero at hcordero@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8344. ❖




PRIDE 2021

An annual event celebrating Rockville's LGBTQ+ community.

Saturday, June 26

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, events will be announced as they are confirmed. For details, follow the City of Rockville on social media and visit www.rockvillemd.gov/pride



Independence Day Celebration Canceled

Rockville's Independence Day Celebration, typically held each July Fourth, has been canceled due to public health concerns arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rockville's event draws nearly 30,000 people and as part of the city's ongoing efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, staff recommended cancelling the event.

The city is exploring alternative community events for the summer. Montgomery County's latest health orders prohibit outdoor gatherings of more

than 50 people and the city will not be holding large in-person events at this time. Check RockvilleReports.com and follow the city on social media for more details in the weeks ahead.

The city's Special Events staff discussed community events during the pandemic with the Mayor and Council on March 15. Find a staff report and video of the discussion with the March 15 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ❖

Rockville Farmers Market Returns in May with Food Benefit Matching Programs

The City of Rockville and Rockville Farmers Market will provide a dollar-for-dollar match for customers using their federal nutrition benefits during the 2021 market season.

Entering its 10th year, the Eat Fresh Rockville and Maryland Market Money program removes economic barriers for food-insecure shoppers, by increasing access to fresh produce and increasing purchasing power. Customers can receive a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$10 weekly when they shop with SNAP/EBT (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/ Electronic Benefits Transfer), P-EBT (Pandemic EBT) and WIC-FVC (Women, Infants and Children-Fruit and Vegetable Checks) at the market. Matching funds can be used to purchase locally grown and produced items including fruits, vegetables, meat, cheese, dairy, baked goods, eggs and honey.

The program aims to fight hunger while investing directly in farmers, strengthening the local food system. Customers can stop by the market tent, located at the market entrance for more information.

The market will be open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, from May 15 through Nov. 20, in the jury parking lot at East Jefferson (MD 28) and Monroe streets in Rockville Town Center.

The market gives shoppers their pick of farm-fresh produce and more from regional growers/producers, transforming itself weekly as fruits and vegetables become available throughout the season. Market rules and regulations and a preordering program provide for quicker, safer shopping.

Learn more about the Eat Fresh Rockville and Maryland Market Money program and the market at www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers. ❖



Rockville Farmers Market

SATURDAYS
May 15-Nov. 20 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Corner of Route 28 and Monroe Street.
WIC and EBT/SNAP accepted.

GETTING THERE: Metro: Red Line • Ride On - Bus 47 and 56
Free parking available.



City of
Rockville
Get Into It

www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers • 240-314-8620

www.facebook.com/RockvilleFarmersMarket





Get Into It

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Interim Deputy City Manager: Tim Chesnutt
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
Public Information Specialists: Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam

Web and Digital Manager: Tatum B. Walker
Graphics and Printing: Eric Ferrell, Erin Fincher, Lori Russler
Rockville II: Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Kathy Dantzler

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BACK IN THE DAY ... In June 2012, the Rockville Senior Center held its grand reopening, sporting new expansions totaling 10,000 square feet. Part of the expansions, which began two years before, included a new fitness center with new equipment, modern locker rooms and a new entrance.